

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-35 Cancelled

Claim 36. (New) A chemically synthesized double stranded short interfering nucleic acid (siNA) molecule comprising a first strand and a second strand where the first strand is a sense strand and the second strand is an antisense strand, wherein:

- a. each strand of said siNA molecule is 18 to 27 nucleotides in length;
- b. the antisense strand of said siNA molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence that is complementary to a nucleotide sequence of platelet-derived endothelial cell growth factor (ECGF1) RNA and the sense strand is complementary to the antisense strand; and
- c. said siNA molecule comprises at least one chemically modified nucleotide or non-nucleotide at the 5' end and/or 3' end of the sense strand and the 3' end of the antisense strand.

Claim 37. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 36, wherein said siNA molecule comprises no ribonucleotides.

Claim 38. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 36, wherein said siNA molecule comprises one or more ribonucleotides.

Claim 39. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 36, wherein said chemically modified nucleotide comprises a 2'-deoxy nucleotide.

Claim 40. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 36, wherein said chemically modified nucleotide comprises a 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro nucleotide.

Claim 41. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 36, wherein said chemically modified nucleotide comprises a 2'-O-methyl nucleotide.

Claim 42. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 36, wherein said chemically modified nucleotide comprises a phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage.

Claim 43. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 36, wherein said non-nucleotide comprises an abasic moiety.

Claim 44. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 43, wherein said abasic moiety comprises an inverted deoxyabasic moiety.

Claim 45. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 36, wherein said non-nucleotide comprises a glyceryl moiety.

Claim 46. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 36, wherein each strand of the siNA molecule comprises 19 to 23 nucleotides, and wherein each strand comprises at least 19 nucleotides that are complementary to the nucleotides of the other strand.

Claim 47. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 36, wherein said siNA molecule is assembled from two separate oligonucleotide fragments wherein one fragment comprises the sense region and a second fragment comprises the antisense region of said siNA molecule.

Claim 48. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 36, wherein said sense region is connected to the antisense region via a linker molecule.

Claim 49. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 48, wherein said linker molecule is a polynucleotide linker.

Claim 50. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 48, wherein said linker molecule is a non-nucleotide linker.

Claim 51. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 36, wherein pyrimidine nucleotides in the sense region are 2'-O-methyl pyrimidine nucleotides.

Claim 52. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 36, wherein purine nucleotides in the sense region are 2'-deoxy purine nucleotides.

Claim 53. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 36, wherein pyrimidine nucleotides present in the sense region are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.

Claim 54. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 47, wherein the fragment comprising said sense region includes a terminal cap moiety at the 5'-end, the 3'-end, or both of the 5' and 3' ends of the fragment comprising said sense region.

Claim 55. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 54, wherein said terminal cap moiety is an inverted deoxy abasic moiety.

Claim 56. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 36, wherein pyrimidine nucleotides of said antisense region are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides

Claim 57. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 36, wherein purine nucleotides of said antisense region are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides.

Claim 58. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 36, wherein purine nucleotides present in said antisense region comprise 2'-deoxy- purine nucleotides.

Claim 59. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 56, wherein said antisense region comprises a phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage at the 3' end of said antisense region.

Claim 60. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 36, wherein said antisense region comprises a glyceryl modification at the 3' end of said antisense region.

Claim 61. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 47, wherein each of the two fragments of said siNA molecule comprise 21 nucleotides.

Claim 62. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 61, wherein about 19 nucleotides of each fragment of the siNA molecule are base-paired to the complementary nucleotides of the other fragment of the siNA molecule and wherein at least two 3' terminal nucleotides of each

fragment of the siNA molecule are not base-paired to the nucleotides of the other fragment of the siNA molecule.

Claim 63. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 62, wherein each of the two 3' terminal nucleotides of each fragment of the siNA molecule are 2'-deoxy-pyrimidines.

Claim 64. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 63, wherein said 2'-deoxy-pyrimidine is 2'-deoxy-thymidine.

Claim 65. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 61, wherein all 21 nucleotides of each fragment of the siNA molecule are base-paired to the complementary nucleotides of the other fragment of the siNA molecule.

Claim 66. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 61, wherein 19 nucleotides of the antisense region are base-paired to the nucleotide sequence of the RNA encoded by a ECGF1 gene or a portion thereof.

Claim 67. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 61, wherein 21 nucleotides of the antisense region are base-paired to the nucleotide sequence of the RNA encoded by a ECGF1 gene or a portion thereof.

Claim 68. (New) The siNA molecule of claim 47, wherein the 5'-end of the fragment comprising said antisense region optionally includes a phosphate group.

Claim 69. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the siNA molecule of claim 36 in an acceptable carrier or diluent.